



THE LAKE DAVIS UPDATE

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Project Update

Plans are underway to begin pike eradication in September, some time after the Labor Day weekend. First, the U.S. Forest Service will begin the Forest Closure (see related article on page 2). Next, the first of two tributary treatments will begin - and will take between three and seven days each. The treatment of the reservoir will be done at the same time as the second tributary treatment, which is expected to occur in late September.

A liquid form of rotenone, CFT Legumine™, will be applied at a rate of one

part per million. A small amount of Noxfish could be used if, for some unexpected reason, there is not enough CFT Legumine™ - but that is not anticipated at this time. Current plans call for stopping water releases at the dam during the reservoir treatment, and flows could remain off for up to 45 days. The purpose of stopping the water releases is to allow the chemicals to degrade naturally before water is released to flow downstream. We are working with landowners and water users along the creek to make sure that their water uses are appropriately mitigated.

How to Get Information About the Project

During the upcoming Lake Davis treatment, you may have questions or concerns about forest closures, health and safety issues, daily activities, or the progress of the project. Information will be available through a variety of sources:

Information Line: (530) 832-4754

Information Stations:

Leonard's Market
Portola City Hall
Fish and Game Office, 209 Commercial St., Portola
Forest Closure Check points on Grizzly Road and West Street

Web site: www.dfg.ca.gov/lakedavis/

If you have specific questions or concerns that need immediate attention, call the information line. This number will be in operation from August 1 through the end of November and can be used to report health concerns, noise and air quality issues, or ask any questions about the project.

To get a daily update on the project, visit one of the information stations around town. These bulletin boards will have progress reports, maps and photos of what's been happening around the reservoir. Look for these information stations after Labor Day.

The Portola Fish and Game Field Office is located downtown, across from the Pizza Factory. You are welcome to come into the

office to talk to us. If you want to drop by, call our information line (530) 832-4754 to be sure we are in or to arrange an appointment. Sometimes the office is empty during normal business hours when we are out in the field. Also, because this is a field office, there are no receptionists or set office hours and we do not sell hunting and fishing licenses.

The Lake Davis website is a great place to visit if you are interested in learning more about the eradication project. The site contains field work summaries, answers to common questions, and environmental documents associated with the project. The website is currently available for your use.

Forest Closure Order

When the pike eradication project begins after Labor Day, the Plumas National Forest will be issuing and enforcing a temporary Forest Closure Order for the area affected by the treatment. The enclosed map shows the closure area marked in red and the detours marked in yellow. The Forest Closure is designed to protect human health and safety and allow for a smooth-running project during the time that the rotenone is being transported, stored and used in and around Lake Davis.

The Forest Closure will prohibit vehicle and foot traffic entering onto National Forest System Lands, including developed campgrounds and undeveloped areas within the closure area. The closure will go into effect the week of Sept 4, 2007 and will remain in place until the Plumas County Environmental Health and the California Department of Public Health determines that the closure is no longer necessary. The closure is anticipated to be lifted in stages with the area surrounding the tributaries lifted first since the streams are expected to be clear of rotenone more quickly than the standing water in the reservoir.

Exceptions to the Forest Closure will be made for private landowners and residents who cannot access their property via another route, emergency vehicles, personnel implementing the pike eradication project, and staff essential to the operation and maintenance of the Smith Peak fire lookout station.

Implementation of this closure will be done by physically closing some roads. Main access points will be staffed, however. Interagency law enforcement will also be on site to assist with the enforcement of the order.

Radio and newspaper articles will announce when the Forest Closure is going into effect as well as when it is lifted. Signs on Highway 70 will also announce the road closures. Information can also be obtained by calling Lori Wood at (530) 836-7171 or the Lake Davis Information Line at (530) 832-4754.

Contact Lori Wood of the Plumas National Forest with questions and comments related to the Forest Closure. Phone: (530)836-7171; email: loriwilson@fs.fed.us.

Staff Training



DFG biologists with extensive experience in the Lake Davis watershed and in the use of rotenone have been training field staff this summer at Lake Davis. DFG is conducting thorough planning and training of all staff involved in the project. Training includes extensive field reconnaissance, rotenone application, safety, and environmental safeguards.

DFG staff from as far away as Redding and Bakersfield will be assisting with the treatment phase of the project. Over 500 staff will be participating in the project with as many as 250 staff in the field on any given day during peak periods in September. Our staff will be staying at local motels and eating in local restaurants. We appreciate your hospitality and welcome the opportunity to say "hello!"

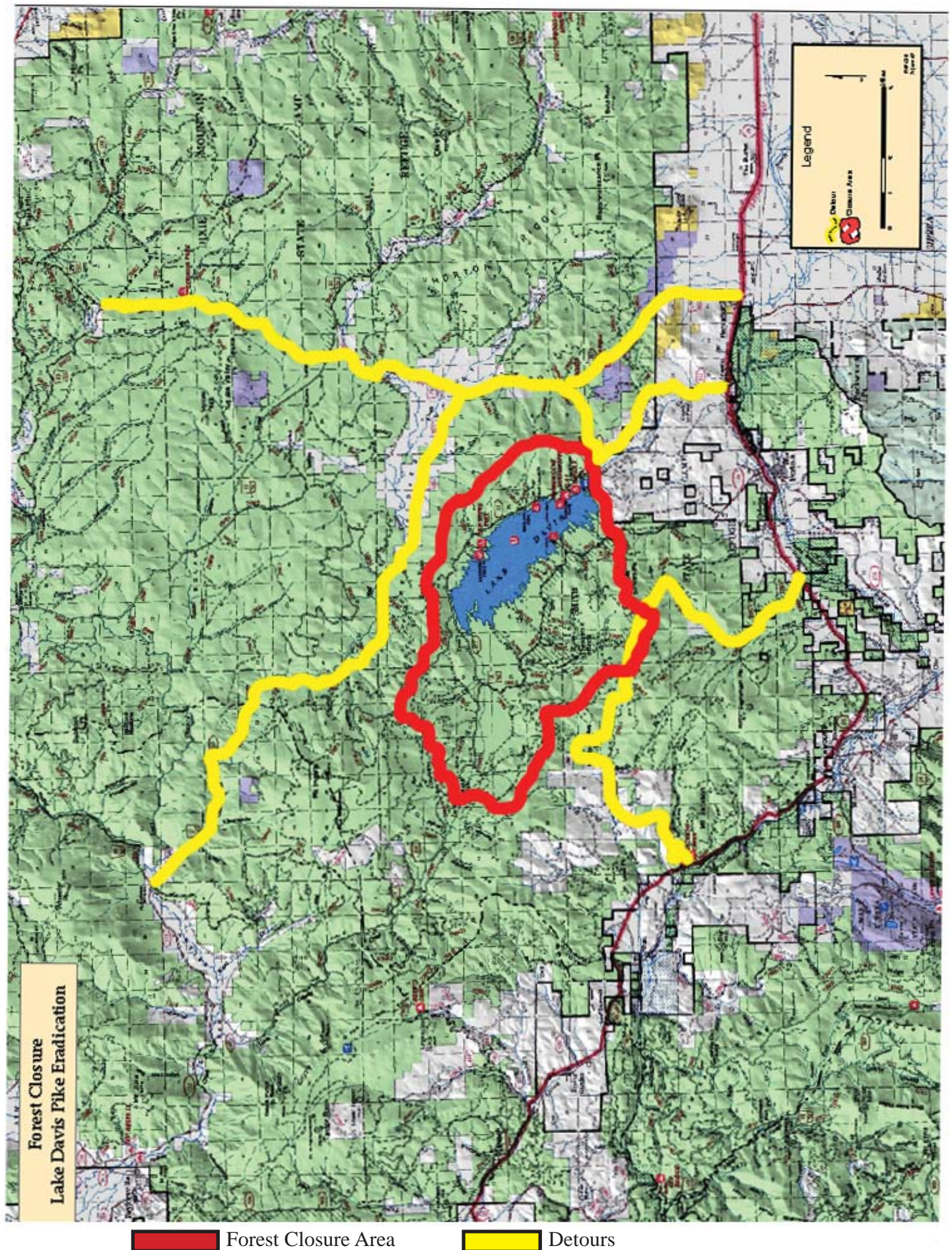
Do You Know Where Your Drinking Water Comes From?

If you live in the City of Portola, your water comes from two wells in the City, and from Willow Springs. These sources provided water for the community during the 1997 rotenone treatment of Lake Davis, and Portola continues to use them today. In addition, the City of Portola is building a brand new state-of-the-art "reverse osmosis" water treatment plant for Lake Davis water. This plant will replace the old facility which has not been in operation since 1997. The new treatment plant is being built with state and federal monies, and is expected to go on-line in 2008. When completed and certified, Lake Davis will

again become a drinking water source for the City of Portola.

The Pike Eradication Project is required to comply with Section 116751 of the California Health and Safety Code. This code is one of the strictest drinking water standards in California. This means that at the conclusion of the pike eradication project, the water from Lake Davis will have met cleaner standards than the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, the California Safe Drinking Water Act, and Proposition 65 (Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986).

Forest Closure Map



Kid's Fishing Derby

"By 7:45 a.m. we had given away 80 rods and tackle," said Tim Kurdupski, past president of Feather River Trout Unlimited (FRTU). These generous men and women donated their time, money and lots of energy to put on the Kid's Fishing Derby at the Graeagle Millpond on May 19th.



The DFG planted double number of fish this year at the Millpond as part of mitigation for the upcoming pike eradication project. For some of the 150 children attending, this was their first experience at fishing. For others, it was the first catch of the year. The excitement was contagious as one child after another netted a fish. Betsy Magladry and Michelle Petroelje from DFG's Portola Office helped make fish prints of the children's catch and Warden Zeke Awbrey was also on hand to answer questions.



This is one of many fishing events that FRTU sponsors each year to promote safe fishing and stewardship of our watersheds. Another derby was held two weekends later in Greenville and plans are in the works for

another derby for young adults with special needs at Greenhorn Ranch this fall. FRTU will also be donating rods and reels to the Portola Rail Road Days Kid's Fishing Derby this year.

Over the years, FRTU has also been involved with the Trout in the Classroom Program, one of DFG's Classroom Aquatic Education Programs. FRTU provides free tanks and equipment to classrooms to raise trout on school sites all over Plumas County. This year they sponsored the Trout in the Classroom training for 15 Plumas County teachers in April. Rob Wade, Outdoor & Watershed Projects Coordinator of Plumas County, Office of Education, has been coordinating the Trout in the Classroom program for over five years. Together he and Betsy Magladry developed the training to introduce teachers to Trout Unlimited mentors and provide teachers with all the available resources to ensure a successful classroom program. Kristy Hoffman, Feather River Coordinated Resource Management / Plumas Corporation (CRM), also helped with the training. Sadly, Rob will be stepping down as coordinator of this valuable program this year. But the program will continue thanks to the dedication of the Feather River Trout Unlimited members.



A big thanks to the contributors to the Junior Fishing Derby at Portola Railroad Days on August 26th! FRTU, Wiggins Trading Post, and Dollards Market as well as many community members have donated prizes, supplies and their valuable time to the event. Feather River College Hatchery Manager Zachary Parks is providing the fish.

For more information on Feather River Trout Unlimited, please call Bill Davis at (530) 836-1884. For Trout in the Classroom information, please contact Dave Nelson at (530)836-0855. Information on Feather River CRM can be found on their website at: www.feather-river-crm.org. For Feather River College Fish Hatchery information, call (530) 283-0202 x224.

Open House

Over 100 people packed Fellowship Hall at Portola Station Baptist Church for the Pike Eradication Project Open House held on August 1st. This Open House wrapped up a series of 10 public workshops sponsored by the Department of Fish and Game to inform the community of the details of the pike eradication project and answer questions about the treatment. The "open house" format was a change from the usual presentations followed by Questions and Answers. Information tables around the room were staffed by many presenters from the previous workshops. The purpose of the Open House was to give residents an opportunity to speak one-on-one with DFG staff, outside experts, cooperating agencies and community groups before the project begins in September 2007.



DFG Project Manager Ed Pert, Portola field office and other staff provided information on the background and the need for the project. Those who parked in the rear of the church were able to see an electrofishing boat and backpack electroshocker used for electrofishing, which is a commonly used method for collecting pike in Lake Davis. The Operations table showed what would be happening on the ground during the treatment. Stan Stephens, DFG Operations Section Chief, explained how the tributaries will be treated first, followed by a second stream treatment and lake treatment. The Fisheries table described the restocking plan. Lori Wood of the U.S. Forest Service gave details of the forest closure and resident access plan.

Outside experts were on hand to discuss chemicals and economic impacts. Toxicologist Jeff Fisher, Environ International, and Ron Tjeerdema, Chair of the Department of Environmental Toxicology at UC Davis shared their expertise on chemicals in the environment with open house attendees. They described the fate of chemicals in the rotenone formulation, and discussed how rotenone dissipates and biodegrades in the environment. Jim McCurley, RGL – Forensic Accountants and Consultants, addressed economic concerns. He is currently conducting an economic study and seeking participation from local businesses. This information will be used to determine what impacts, if any, the project has on local businesses. The results of the study will be presented to the State Legislature.

Drinking water issues were represented by 3 agencies. Dave Spath from the California Department of Public Health addressed drinking water safety concerns. His department is responsible for evaluating the short- and long-term impacts of the project on drinking water quality. To ensure the safety of drinking water in the nearby wells, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Plumas County Environmental Health (PCEH) have been conducting 2 separate well monitoring programs. DWR has been conducting well level monitoring in order to better understand the direction of groundwater flow. PCEH has monitored 80 wells for chemicals from the 1997 treatment. After nine years of testing and 1500 samples, no chemicals related to the 1997 treatment have been found in any of the wells. Additionally, PCEH contracted with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories to conduct an isotope test. This test will determine if surface water is mixing with groundwater in nearby wells.

Community groups were represented by the Lake Davis Steering Committee and the Save Lake Davis group. Committee members Fran Roudebush and Bill Powers talked about their continued work with community and DFG. The Save Lake Davis group offered differing viewpoints of the project.

Judging from the numbers, this last workshop was the most popular with the public. Those who attended the Open House enjoyed the casual atmosphere and their ability to come and get the information they needed.

The Perils of Pike!

The northern pike is a predatory fish that has been illegally introduced into California. It has impacted fishing at Lake Davis which is an important part of the local economy.

If pike should escape from Lake Davis, they could threaten many native fishes as well as the sport fishing economies and commercial salmon fishing industries in California and other western states.

Calendar of Events

Monday, September 3rd Labor Day

Saturday, September 22nd DFG Free Fishing Day

Saturday, September 22nd 12th Annual Feather River Salmon Festival, Feather River Hatchery, Table Mountain Blvd., Oroville. (530)-538-2222

Saturday, October 6th Plumas National Forest Fall Fest, Mt. Hough Ranger Station, Quincy. (530) 283-7618

Saturday/Sunday October 13/14 American River Salmon Festival, Nimbus Hatchery, Rancho Cordova. (916) 358-2884

Wednesday, October 31st Safe Trick or Treat, Downtown Portola Merchants

Chemical Analysis

DFG recently received samples from the seven lots (manufacturing batches) of rotenone that we will use in treating Lake Davis. As we described in the EIR/EIS, we are analyzing those lots for chemical constituents so we can confirm and disclose what is in them. A fact sheet on the results of these analyses will be prepared, and available in late August or early September. Please call our Information Line at (530) 832-4754 for an update.

**PROJECT
INFORMATION
LINE
(530) 832-4754**

Questions?

Call the

Portola Office

of the

California

Department of

Fish and Game

at (530) 832-4754

Or email:

northernplike@

dfg.ca.gov

Or visit our

website at:

[www.dfg.ca.gov/
lakedavis](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/lakedavis)

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